IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A shifting device for the preferably powerless transmission of shift commands to a fully automatic or semi-automatic transmission of a motor vehicle, the shifting device comprising:

a frame and/or housing;

a gearshift lever mounted pivotably along a shift gate;

a first shift stop defining a shift position of the gearshift lever;

a second shift stop for the gearshift lever defining a shift position of the gearshift lever; and

at least one detection device for detecting one or both of the shift positions, the shifting device having an inoperative position, into which the gearshift lever pivots back by itself from a deflected shift position driven by a restoring force; and

an actuating device countermanding one of said shift stops ~~a shift stop~~ so that the gearshift lever can be pivoted beyond one of said the positions defined by ~~the associated~~ said one shift stop, said one shift stop being an actual stop against a mechanical resistance that can not be overcome with normal force.

2-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A shifting device in accordance with claim ~~2~~ 25, wherein the stationary stop face is formed by a stop element that is in connection with the frame and/or

housing.

5-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A shifting device in accordance with claim ~~3~~ 25, wherein the gearshift lever has a coupling element, which can be fastened to said at least one shift stop element.

11. (Original) A shifting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the actuating device is directly connected with a button at the gearshift lever in order for it to be able to be mechanically triggered by pushing the button.

12. (Original) A shifting device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the actuating device has a longitudinally displaceable push rod, which can move a pin along the gearshift lever.

13. (Original) A shifting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the actuating device is indirectly connected with a button at the gearshift lever in order to be triggered by pushing, the pushing of the button electrically causes actuation or generates another signal.

14. (Currently Amended) A shifting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the

actuating device ~~has a, preferably electromagnetically operated plunger,~~ which brings about or makes possible the pivoting out of a stop face.

15. (Currently Amended) A shifting device in accordance with claim ~~6~~ 24, wherein the actuating device has an electromagnetically operated plunger, which can pivot out the rocker arm loaded by a spring.

16. (Currently Amended) A shifting device in accordance with claim ~~8~~ 24 wherein the locking element has an electrically controlled releasing device.

17. (Original) A shifting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein another said shift stop, which defines a maximally deflected shift position of the gearshift lever, is provided at least in the deflection direction of the gearshift lever.

18. (Currently Amended) A shifting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the detection device has one of a Hall sensor, optical sensor, and electric switch for at least one of the shift positions.

19- 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Original) A shifting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the restoring force

of the gearshift lever is generated by a spring-loaded roller or a spring-loaded sliding element, which said roller/sliding element is coupled with the gearshift lever and moves over a curve, which is a rigid part of the housing.

22. (Original) A shifting device in accordance with claim 1, further comprising: an electronic or program-controlled control circuit for controlling the actuating device for countermanding a shift stop, taking into account the current driving conditions and/or the current shifting state.

23. (Currently Amended) A shifting device in accordance with claim ~~8~~ 24, wherein an electronic or program-controlled circuit is provided for triggering the locking element taking into account the current driving conditions and/or the current shifting state.

24. (New) A shifting device for transmission of shift commands to a fully automatic or semi-automatic transmission of a motor vehicle, the shifting device comprising:

a frame and/or housing;

a gearshift lever mounted pivotably along a shift gate;

a first shift stop defining a shift position of the gearshift lever;

a second shift stop for the gearshift lever defining a shift position of the gearshift lever;

at least one detection device for detecting one or both of the shift positions, the shifting device having an inoperative position, into which the gearshift lever pivots back by itself from

a deflected shift position driven by a restoring force;

an actuating device countermanding a shift stop so that the gearshift lever can be pivoted beyond one of said the positions defined by the associated shift stop;

at least one shift stop being formed by a gearshift lever-side stop face moving with the gearshift lever and by a stop face that is stationary in relation to the movement of the gearshift lever;

the gearshift lever-side stop face being formed by a stop element connected with the gearshift lever and including a pin at the gearshift lever;

said at least one shift stop being deflected by means of the actuating device such that the original stop is ineffective in the deflected position;

said at least one shift stop including a rocker arm, which is mounted pivotably around a rocker arm pivot axis;

the rocker arm pivot axis being mounted on a pivotable emergency lever in an emergency lever shaft, said emergency lever being connected with a emergency release means of the transmission and can actuate the emergency release mechanism by its deflection;

a locking element preventing the emergency lever from pivoting.

25. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 24, wherein:

said locking element is a rocker element, which is mounted on a shaft and can prevent said rocker arm from being pivoted around said emergency lever shaft in a blocked position and permits this pivoting in another released position.

26. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 25, wherein:

said rocker arm defines an opening;

said locking element includes a pin engaging with said opening in said rocker arm in said blocked position.

27. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 25, wherein:

said shift stop countermanded by said actuating device is an actual stop against a mechanical resistance that cannot be overcome with normal force.

28. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 24, wherein:

said shift stop countermanded by said actuating device is an actual stop against a mechanical resistance that cannot be overcome with normal force.

29. (New) A shifting device comprising:

a housing defining a shift gate with first and second shift positions, and an intermediate position;

a gearshift lever mounted pivotably in said housing along said shift gate;

a restoring device biasing said gear shift lever into said intermediate position;

a detection device for detecting said gearshift lever in one of said shift positions;

a first shift stop arranged on said housing and defining said first shift position of the gearshift lever;

a second shift stop defining said second shift position, said second shift stop being movably arranged on said housing between first and second locations, said first location of said second shift stop preventing said gear shift lever from moving past said second shift position;

an actuating device moving said second shift stop into said second location to increase said shift gate beyond said second shift position.

30. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 29, wherein:

said second shift stop is arranged to be connected with said gearshift lever when said gearshift lever is beyond said second shift position and said second shift stop is in said second location, said second shift stop being movable with said gearshift lever toward said intermediate position when said second shift stop is connected with said gearshift lever.

31. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 30, further comprising:

a release mechanism connected to said second shift stop and releasing a transmission when said second shift stop and said gearshift lever move toward said intermediate position.

32. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 30, further comprising:

a lock for preventing said second shift stop from moving toward said intermediate position.

33. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 29, further comprising:

a selector device selectively controllable by the operator of the shifting device to select one of said locations of said second shift stop.

34. (New) A shifting device in accordance with claim 33, further comprising:

a control circuit reading a selection of said selector device and controlling said actuating device taking into account current driving conditions and/or a current shifting state.